

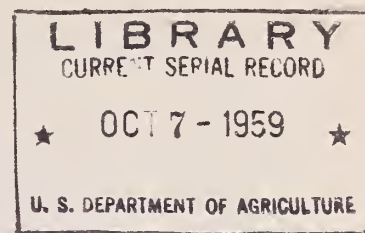
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# FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW



## Institute of Home Economics, Agricultural Research Service, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Prepared for home demonstration agents and home economics specialists of the Agricultural Extension Service, this publication reports current developments in family and food economics, and economic aspects of home management.

### CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
STUDIES CONTRIBUTE TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.....	1
AGE OF THE HOMEMAKER AND FOOD CONSUMPTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD...	6
ESTIMATED COST OF ONE WEEK'S FOOD--U.S.A. AVERAGE AND FOUR REGIONS.....	10
AN ADAPTATION OF THE LOW-COST FOOD PLAN FOR THE SOUTH.....	15
TEXTILE FIBER IDENTIFICATION.....	18
CHANGES IN INCOME AND SPENDING OF CITY WORKER FAMILIES.....	19
MONEY INCOME OF AGED PERSONS.....	23
1960 CENSUS.....	26
INCOMES SHIFT UPWARD.....	28
CONSUMER PRICES.....	29



## STUDIES CONTRIBUTE TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the Rural Development Program, initiated in 1955, is to improve levels of living of the more than one-half of American farm families who produce little for the market. Most of these families gain little, if any, benefit from the Government's price support and stabilization programs and cannot be served effectively by programs designed for commercial agriculture. Major goals of the Rural Development Program are to help families who have the desire and ability to stay in agriculture to gain the necessary land, tools, and skills; to develop more off-farm job opportunities; to improve educational and training facilities available to rural youths; and to extend and improve the health, welfare, and other community services of the underdeveloped areas.

At first the Rural Development Program was limited to selected pilot counties located in seriously low-income rural areas. More than 100 such counties in 30 States were participating in late 1958. In recent months the program in some States has been expanded beyond the pilot counties.

The Rural Development Program is a cooperative effort of Federal, State, and local groups. Federal agencies participating are the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Labor, and Health, Education and Welfare; the President's Council of Economic Advisers; and the Small Business Administration. A national church group has assigned staff to the program. Private organizations are showing a growing interest; several national trade associations and firms are urging their members to become active in county and area projects. At the State level personnel from land grant colleges and universities, along with representatives from other agricultural groups, industry, labor, and welfare give direction to the program. But the primary role is played by local committees composed of farm, business, civic, and church leaders who adapt the program to local needs.

Within the USDA, the program is supported principally by a redirection and strengthening of existing agencies, with emphasis on new methods and approaches. Department of Agriculture units participating in the program are the Agricultural Marketing Service, Agricultural Research Service, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Extension Service, Forest Service, Rural Electrification Administration, Farmer Cooperative Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Commodity Stabilization Service, and Soil Conservation Service.

Surveys of low-income areas that reveal existing conditions and indicate available resources and current levels of living, are useful to Extension personnel and others working in the Rural Development Program. They not only provide knowledge of the current situation, a tool useful in planning for change, but a benchmark from which to measure change. The Household Economics Research Division in the Institute of Home Economics is conducting a series of studies in Rural Development areas to describe the levels of living of families living in the open country and to compare the levels attained by families engaged in full-time farming with those of families engaged in part-time farming or supported entirely from nonfarm sources.



The first of these studies was conducted in 1957 in 5 counties in Kentucky--Barren, Cumberland, Hart, Metcalfe, and Monroe. The second was made in 1959 in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and covered 5 East Texas counties--Cherokee, Anderson, Smith, Rusk, and Nacogdoches. About 350 families were interviewed in each of these areas. Since these are small studies, only families that were headed by both husband and wife were included in the samples and interviewing was limited to those living in the open country. Information was obtained about the number and ages of family members, the year's income and expenditures for goods and services for family living, food families produced for family use, what their housing was like, and what furniture, equipment, clothing, and automobiles they owned.

A preliminary analysis of these data indicates that an outstanding characteristic of these areas is the loss of young adults from their population. (See chart, page 3.) In 1950 the rural population of the Kentucky counties 1/ was distributed in an age pattern much like that of the rural population of the country as a whole. Each age class was smaller than the next younger class. The decrease was gradual and fairly regular. The only marked change in pace was in the age class 20-29 years, when cities exert a strong attraction for young people starting out on their own.

By 1957 the rate of outmigration among the young adults had been stepped up sharply. In the survey population there was a smaller proportion of 20-to-29-year-olds than of 30-to-39-year-olds and the latter in turn were fewer than the 40-to-49-year-olds. Persons between 20 and 39 years of age formed 22 percent of the population in the survey in contrast to 27 percent in 1950.

This pattern of outmigration had set in earlier in the Texas counties than in Kentucky. In 1950 it had already passed the stage reached in Kentucky in 1957. Even then, the usual pattern of fewer persons in each succeeding 10-year age span had been broken and there were more persons in their thirties than in their twenties, and in turn more in their forties than in their thirties. The proportion of persons between 20 and 39 in the population had already fallen to 24 percent. By 1958 this proportion had decreased even further to 18 percent.

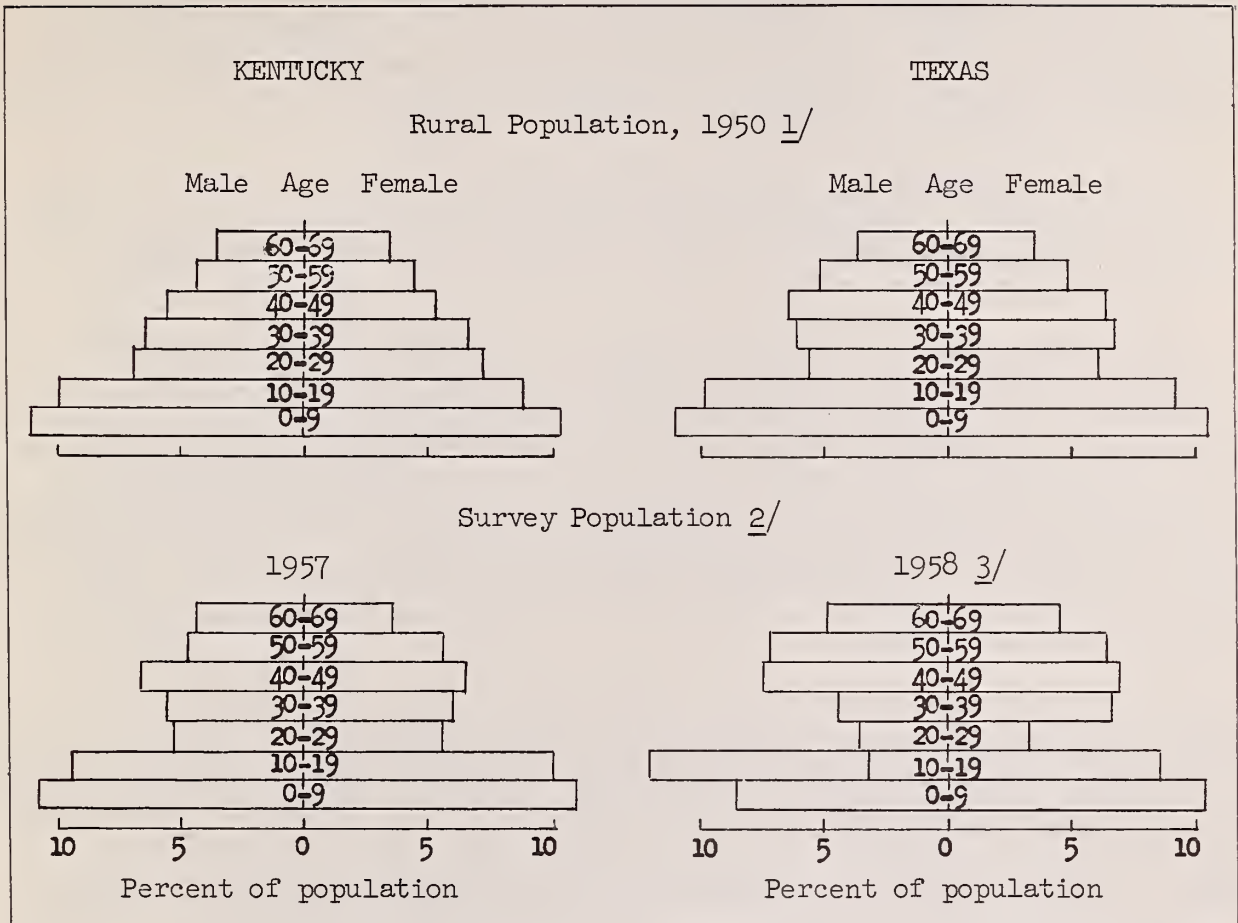
Continued outmigration such as is taking place in these areas must eventually have an effect on the child population. The loss of young adults results in the formation of fewer new families, and this in turn decreases the number of children born. This chain of events is evident in the survey data for the Texas counties. By 1958 there were fewer children under 10 than between 10 and 19. The Kentucky area, being less advanced in this cycle,

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1/ The populations covered in these surveys are not strictly comparable to the rural population as reported in the Census. The most important difference is that these surveys were limited to the open country while the Census classification "rural" includes the small towns and villages. There is no reason to believe, however, that the population movement in the open country has differed materially from that in built up, but nonurban areas, and so, lacking precisely comparable earlier data, the Census data have been used to indicate the change over time.

# CHANGES IN AGE DISTRIBUTION

10 Rural Development Counties in Kentucky and Texas



1/ Source: Bureau of the Census.

3/ Preliminary.

2/ Husband-and-wife families in the open country.

still had larger numbers of children under 10 than in their teens, but a beginning had taken place there also. There were fewer children under 5 than between 5 and 10, a fact which does not show in the chart.

As is to be expected in view of the loss of young adults, a relatively large proportion of these families in both areas have been long established and the problems of the family just starting out are of concern to relatively few. In the Kentucky area, 21 percent had been married less than 10 years but 31 percent had been married 30 years or more. In the Texas area an even larger proportion--35 percent--were long established and fewer--17 percent--had been married less than 10 years.

The average size of family was the same in the two areas--3.6 year-equivalent persons. This is rather surprising since a larger proportion of the Texas than of the Kentucky families were Negro--22 percent of the families as compared with 3 percent--and Negro families tend to be larger than white. Possibly this lack of difference in family size can be attributed to the fact that outmigration has been in process longer in Texas and made greater inroads into the age group in which families tend to be largest.

The Kentucky families were the average size of white farm-operator families in the South. The Texas families were smaller than the average for all southern farm-operator families, Negro and white. In both study groups, families who farmed and families who did not were about the same in size.

Most of the families in both studies were of the conventional types--husband and wife only or husband and wife and their unmarried children. In both areas only 8 percent of the economic families--the unit that is dependent on the pooled earnings of its members--contained other persons in addition to these. When other persons were included, they were most frequently married children and their families. The proportion of families sharing the household with others was somewhat larger in Texas than in Kentucky--12 percent as compared to 8 percent. Most of these others in the household but not in the economic family were persons related to the family and comparatively few were there for the full year.

The educational level in these areas is relatively low. Both the family heads and their wives had had less schooling than the national average for the rural population 25 years of age and older. The median grade completed by the family heads was the eighth in Texas and the seventh in Kentucky. In the Texas area 22 percent had graduated from high school and 7 percent had gone on to get some college training. In Kentucky these proportions were 10 and 2 percent. In both areas, as is generally true, the wives of the family heads had had somewhat more schooling, on the average, than their husbands.

An encouraging circumstance is that the level of education is rising in these areas. For example, the Kentucky heads of families under 30 years of age had a median attainment of 8 grades while those in the age interval 50-59 years had only completed 5 grades. This advance falls short of that shown by the total population, however.

While sharing the problem of low income, these two areas differ in several respects. Both are predominantly rural, but the Texas area had within it a city of approximately 40,000 population and in each county at least one town that meets the Census definition of an urban place while the Kentucky area has only one urban place and its population is only about 7,000. In 1950, about 90 percent of the population of the Kentucky area was rural, compared with 60 percent in the Texas area.

Largely because of the greater opportunities for off-farm employment that go along with more towns, fewer of the Texas families were completely dependent on farming and a larger proportion got all of their income from nonfarm sources. (See table 1.) In the Kentucky area, 78 percent of the families were at least partly dependent on agriculture and 55 percent got most or all



Table 1.--Family income 1/ by source

Source of income	5 Rural Development counties in Kentucky, 1957		5 Rural Development counties in Texas, 1958 <u>2/</u>	
	Families having	Average amount	Families having	Average amount
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
All sources.....	100	2,087	100	2,786
Farming sole source.....	27	1,836	6	1,442
Farming furnishing 50 percent or more of total....	28	2,321	5	1,946
Farming furnishing some but less than 50 percent.....	24	2,341	40	2,484
All income from nonfarm sources.....	22	1,811	49	3,281

Note: Percentages may not add because of rounding.

1/ Cash income after taxes.

2/ Preliminary.

of their income from farming, whereas in the Texas counties 49 percent had no income from farming and 40 percent got more income from other sources than from farming, leaving only 11 percent principally dependent on farming.

Texas families that were completely dependent on farming had lower incomes, on the average, than the comparable group in Kentucky, but those principally dependent on nonfarm sources had higher incomes than the comparable Kentucky families. In the Texas area, families with nonfarm income only had by far the highest average income of the four source-of-income groups, but in Kentucky they had the lowest. It should be noted that nonfarm income includes investment income and various forms of pensions and public assistance as well as earnings from nonfarm employment. A precise comparison of the sources of nonfarm income studied in the two areas cannot be made, but it appears that retirement income and public assistance were a larger part of the total in Kentucky. It is probable that more individuals were employed in the Texas area and that some of them must have had jobs at substantially higher rates of pay than those in Kentucky.

The increased importance of nonfarm income in the Texas area raised the income level there considerably above the level in Kentucky. Net cash income after taxes averaged \$2,786 per family for the Texas families, more than a third again as much as the average of \$2,087 of the Kentucky families. This indicates the value to an area of developing diversification in sources of income.

The data on family composition and income presented here are only a part of the material collected in these surveys. Information on family living expenditures, home-production practices, and the money value of a year's living will be released as analysis is completed. More detailed data on the income and income-producing resources of Rural Development area families are being developed by agricultural economists in the USDA.

--Jean L. Pennock.

# AGE OF THE HOMEMAKER AND FOOD CONSUMPTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD <sup>1/</sup>

Expenditures for food for the family group tend to be at their peak when homemakers are between 30 and 50 years old, and smallest, when they are 60 years or over. Food spending per person, however, is greatest in households in which the homemaker is 50-59 years old, least in those with homemakers under 30. These are facts learned from the USDA's survey of food consumption in a spring week in 1955.

Variations in food spending by age of the homemaker are due in part, at least, to differences in the size and age composition of the household at different stages of the family life cycle. Table 1 shows how these several factors relate to each other.

Table 1.--Money value of food used in a week, average household size, and percent of household with children under 16, by age of homemaker, spring 1955

Age of homemaker	Household size	With children under 16 years	Money value of food	
			Per household	Per person
	Persons	Percent	Dollars	Dollars
Under 30 years.....	3.62	82.3	24.93	6.89
30-49 years.....	3.96	72.8	29.84	7.54
50-59 years.....	2.98	21.8	24.92	8.36
60 years and over.....	2.58	10.2	19.31	7.48

Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs are the most customary main dish components of meals in this country. The per person use of these foods tended to increase with the age of the homemaker up to 50-59 years, then to taper off in households with older homemakers. Luncheon meats were one exception to this pattern. Unlike other items, they were used more by homemakers under 50 than by those older.

<sup>1/</sup> From Household Food Consumption Survey, 1955, Report No. 14, Food Consumption and Dietary Levels of Households as Related to the Age of Homemaker, United States, by Region. (In press.)

More butter was used by the older homemakers than by the younger ones. The pattern of age difference was not so consistent for other fats and oils, however. The money value per person of margarine, shortening, salad and cooking oils was about the same for one age group as another at the same income level. Readymade salad dressing was less popular in households with homemakers 60 and over than in those of younger ones.

The expenditure per person for fresh fluid milk was greater in successively older groups among lower income households (\$2,000-\$3,999), but less in successively older groups among higher income households. (See table 2.) Young homemakers might be expected to spend more for milk than older ones because they have more young children. For the young homemaker with a larger family to provide for, however, a restricted income imposes a greater limitation on food choices than that felt by the older homemaker. Young homemakers used more processed milk items--condensed, evaporated, and dry--than older homemakers. More of these products were used at lower than at higher income levels. Older households used about the same quantity of fluid milk per person at all income levels.

Table 2.--Money value per person of selected milk products used in a week, by family income after taxes and age of homemaker

Food item and family income after taxes	Age of homemaker			
	Under 30 years	30-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Fresh fluid milk:				
\$2,000-\$3,999.....	0.63	0.66	0.70	0.69
\$4,000-\$5,999.....	.80	.78	.71	.66
Processed milk:				
\$2,000-\$3,999.....	.08	.08	.07	.05
\$4,000-\$5,999.....	.06	.06	.04	.04
Cheese:				
\$2,000-\$3,999.....	.11	.13	.18	.19
\$4,000-\$5,999.....	.13	.15	.21	.19
Ice cream:				
\$2,000-\$3,999.....	.12	.15	.14	.14
\$4,000-\$5,999.....	.17	.16	.18	.16
Cream:				
\$2,000-\$3,999.....	.02	.04	.06	.08
\$4,000-\$5,999.....	.04	.04	.06	.06

More use was made of cheese and cream in families with homemakers over 50. The use of ice cream was not so much a question of age as of income.

The use of bakery products differed more in relation to income than age. Households with older homemakers were more likely to use flour other than



mixes while the younger homemakers tended to use flour mixes somewhat more than the older ones. Breakfast cereals followed the same pattern as fresh fluid milk.

Money value per person for all fruits and vegetables followed the pattern typical for value of total foods, with the peak in the 50-59 age group. Younger families used relatively more commercially processed fruits and vegetables. (See table 3.) Potato chips, commercially canned vegetables and--naturally enough--canned strained and chopped fruits and vegetables were more in demand by younger households. There was little age difference in the use of canned fruits.

Table 3.--Money value per person of fruits and vegetables (including potatoes, sweetpotatoes) used in a week by households with incomes of \$4,000-\$5,999, by age of homemaker

Age of homemaker	Money value per person	Fresh <u>1/</u>	Commercially processed
	Dollars	Percent of total	
Under 30 years.....	1.40	58.6	41.4
30-49 years.....	1.41	64.5	35.5
50-59 years.....	1.69	66.9	33.1
60 years and over.....	1.64	68.9	31.1

1/ Includes fresh produce canned or frozen at home.

Commercially frozen vegetables and juices were used most by homemakers between 50 and 59 years of age. They were less well accepted by those 60 and older. In contrast, dried fruits and vegetables were used to an increasing extent by successively older age groups.

A convenient way to describe in summary form the pattern of eating habits of different groups of households is to compare the division of their "food dollar" among the major food categories. Such a comparison for households with homemakers under 30 and 60 and over shows that the food patterns of the two groups are quite similar. (See table 4.) But age differences appeared in the selection of individual foods within these broad food groups, as we have pointed out earlier. Younger households were more likely to select such items as luncheon meats, canned vegetables, soups, mixes, fresh fluid and processed milk, soft drinks, chocolate and cocoa. Older households tended to have more of most types of meat, poultry, cheese, butter, coffee, tea, sugar, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Families with homemakers 60 or over spent less, on the average, for meals eaten away from home than did the younger families. Their average expenditure was lower because fewer of these older families "ate out," however, and not because those who bought meals away from home spent less per meal. In fact, considering the smaller size of the older families, their expenditures were



quite in line with or even larger than those of other age groups reporting such meals.

Table 4.--Division of the food dollar among major food categories by households, by age of homemaker

Food group	Age of homemaker	
	Under 30 years	60 years and over
	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Total.....	100.0	100.0
Meat, poultry, fish, eggs.....	33.7	35.9
Milk, cream, ice cream, cheese...	15.9	14.9
Flour, cereals, bakery products..	10.6	9.8
Potatoes, sweetpotatoes.....	2.3	2.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	9.5	12.3
Commercially frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables; juices.....	7.2	5.3
Fats and oils.....	4.3	4.7
Sugars and sweets.....	3.2	3.3
Beverages.....	8.2	8.5
Miscellaneous.....	5.3	3.3

Note: May not add to total because of rounding.

The 1955 survey showed that about 40 percent (in terms of money value) of the food used by the farm family was home produced. Home-produced food was relatively more important in older than in younger households. It accounted for 44 percent of the value of food used in a week in farm households with homemakers 50 or over, as compared to 39 percent in those with younger homemakers.

In general, food consumption patterns related to age of homemaker were about the same in the North and the South, in farm and urban families, as those we have described for the United States as a whole. Younger households, for example, used more canned goods and more processed foods than older ones, wherever they lived. But there were some notable differences, too. In the southern farm group, peak expenditures per person for food was by households with homemakers 60 years in age or over, instead of those between 50 and 59. In the southern urban group, the high expenditure--the same dollar amount for both--was by the households with homemakers in the age brackets 30-49 and 50-59. In the South, households with homemakers 60 or over used as much or more milk per person as the younger families; in the North they used less.

In the South the use of eggs and butter increased more steeply with age of homemaker than in the North. But use of bakery bread and commercially frozen vegetables and juices by older households was relatively less in the South than in the North.

Because of the differences in their food patterns a somewhat larger proportion of older than younger households failed to meet the recommendations of the National Research Council in nutrients. For example, 13 percent of households with homemaker 60 years and over had food that failed to furnish the recommended allowances for protein compared with 5 to 8 percent in the younger groups; 27 percent failed to meet the riboflavin allowances compared to 14 to 20 percent in other groups; and 29 percent had less than recommended amounts of ascorbic acid as compared to 24 percent in the other groups.

--Janet Murray.

#### ESTIMATED COST OF ONE WEEK'S FOOD--U.S.A. AVERAGE AND FOUR REGIONS

Estimated costs of buying the family's food according to USDA's food plans have been a regular feature of this publication since 1951. These are estimates of U.S.A. average costs for food to be prepared and served at home by nonfarm families. Table 1 on page 12 presents these estimates at July 1959 prices.

This issue of Family Economics Review presents estimates of the cost of buying food according to the USDA food plans for nonfarm families living in 4 regions--the Northeast, the North Central region, the South, and the West. (See tables 2 and 3, pages 13 and 14.) We expect to revise and publish such regional estimates once a year--probably in the spring issue--in addition to the estimates for U.S.A. published every quarter.

#### How the estimates were made

The cost estimates given for the United States and each of the 4 regions are for the quantities of food in the low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal food plans published in the October 1957 issue of Family Economics Review, as slightly revised in January 1959 to comply with the 1958 National Research Council's Recommended Dietary Allowances. The cost of the food in each plan was first calculated by using average prices per pound paid for the food in each of the 11 food groups by nonfarm families at different income levels, as shown by the 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey. The following income levels, representing the lowest third, the middle third, and the highest third

of the after-tax income distribution of nonfarm families, were used:

	Low- cost plan	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
U. S. average....	2,000-2,999	4,000-4,999	6,000-7,999
Northeast.....	2,000-2,999	4,000-4,999	6,000-7,999
North Central..	2,000-2,999	4,000-4,999	6,000-7,999
South.....	1,000-1,999	3,000-3,999	4,999-5,999
West.....	2,000-2,999	4,000-4,999	6,000-7,999

The prices thus calculated are adjusted to current price levels periodically, using as a basis for adjustment the retail food prices collected in cities by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Average prices in 46 cities are used in adjusting the prices for the U.S.A. average. Prices in the following cities are used to adjust the regional estimates: Boston for the Northeast; St. Louis for the North Central; Atlanta for the South; and Los Angeles for the West.

The estimated costs for each region reflect regional preferences within food groups, buying habits, and prices. (See tables 2 and 3.) The same quantities of food for each of the 11 food groups are used for each regional estimate, but different items or proportions of various items within the groups. For example, the fats and oils group for the West was made up, in part, of 27 percent margarine, 19 percent hydrogenated shortenings, 13 percent lard and chicken fat, and 11 percent salad and cooking oils. The corresponding figures for the South were 17, 13, 41, and 3 percent, respectively. This difference in the assortment within food groups makes little change in the nutritive value because each group contains foods similar in nutritive value.

The summary below shows regional differences in costs of diets selected according to these plans in July 1959 for a family of four (husband, wife, boy 10 years, girl 8 years), and the relative cost for each region when U. S. average cost = 100.

	Low- cost plan		Moderate- cost plan		Liberal plan	
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>
U. S. average....	24.00	100	32.40	100	36.80	100
Northeast.....	26.50	110	34.10	105	37.80	103
North Central..	25.30	105	31.10	96	35.50	96
South.....	20.80	87	28.00	86	32.30	88
West.....	26.10	109	33.10	102	38.00	103



Table 1.--Estimated Cost of One Week's Food, 1/ July 1959 -- U.S.A. Average

Sex-age groups	Low-cost plan	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
<u>FAMILIES</u>			
Family of two, 20-34 years 2/ .....	15.20	20.90	23.50
Family of two, 55-74 years 2/ .....	13.60	18.80	21.00
Family of four, preschool children 3/ .....	20.80	27.70	31.60
Family of four, school children 4/ .....	24.00	32.40	36.80
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>			
Children:			
Under 1 year .....	3.00	3.80	4.10
1-3 years .....	3.70	4.60	5.30
4-6 years .....	4.40	5.70	6.70
7-9 years .....	5.20	6.80	7.80
10-12 years .....	6.10	8.20	9.40
Girls, 13-15 years .....	6.40	8.70	10.00
16-19 years .....	6.50	8.70	9.90
Boys, 13-15 years .....	6.90	9.60	10.90
16-19 years .....	8.30	11.30	12.70
Women:			
20-34 years .....	5.50	7.60	8.60
35-54 years .....	5.30	7.40	8.30
55-74 years .....	5.00	7.00	7.90
75 years and over .....	4.80	6.50	7.40
Pregnant .....	6.80	8.90	9.80
Nursing .....	8.50	11.00	12.10
Men:			
20-34 years .....	7.20	9.80	11.00
35-54 years .....	6.70	9.10	10.10
55-74 years .....	6.30	8.70	9.60
75 years and over .....	6.10	8.30	9.20

1/ These estimates were computed from quantities in low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal food plans. These plans were published in tables 2, 3, and 4 of the October 1957 issue of Family Economics Review. Quantities for children were revised Jan. 1959 to comply with the 1958 NRC Recommended Dietary Allowances. The cost of the food plans was first estimated by using the average prices per pound of each food group paid by nonfarm survey families at 3 selected income levels. These prices were adjusted to current levels by use of Average Retail Prices of Food in 46 Large Cities Combined released periodically by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Estimates for food of individuals and small families have been rounded to nearest \$0.10.

2/ Twenty percent added for small families.

3/ Man and woman 20-34 years, children 1-3 and 4-6 years.

4/ Man and woman 20-34 years, children 7-9 and 10-12 years.



Table 2.--Estimated Cost of One Week's Food, July 1959, for Northeast and North Central Regions

Sex-age groups	Northeast		North Central		
	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>FAMILIES 1/</u>					
Family of two, 20-34 years .....	16.90	22.10	24.20	16.10	19.90
Family of two, 55-74 years .....	15.10	19.80	21.60	14.40	17.90
Family of four, preschool children ...	22.70	29.10	32.40	21.80	26.60
Family of four, school children .....	26.50	34.10	37.80	25.30	31.10
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>					
Children:					
Under 1 year .....	3.20	3.90	4.10	3.10	3.70
1-3 years .....	3.90	4.80	5.40	3.80	4.50
4-6 years .....	4.70	5.90	6.80	4.60	5.50
7-9 years .....	5.70	7.10	8.00	5.50	6.60
10-12 years .....	6.70	8.60	9.60	6.40	7.90
Girls, 13-15 years .....	7.00	9.20	10.30	6.70	8.40
16-19 years .....	7.00	9.10	10.20	6.90	8.40
Boys, 13-15 years .....	7.70	10.20	11.30	7.40	9.30
16-19 years .....	9.20	11.90	13.10	8.80	10.90
Women:					
20-34 years .....	6.00	8.00	8.80	5.80	7.30
35-54 years .....	5.90	7.80	8.60	5.60	7.00
55-74 years .....	5.50	7.30	8.10	5.30	6.60
75 years and over .....	5.30	6.90	7.60	5.10	6.20
Pregnant .....	7.30	9.30	10.00	7.10	8.60
Nursing .....	9.20	11.40	12.40	9.00	10.60
Men:					
20-34 years .....	8.10	10.40	11.40	7.60	9.30
35-54 years .....	7.50	9.70	11.50	7.10	8.70
55-74 years .....	7.10	9.20	9.90	6.70	8.30
75 years and over .....	6.80	8.80	9.50	6.50	7.90
					22.70
					20.30
					30.60
					35.50
					4.00
					5.20
					6.50
					7.50
					9.10
					9.70
					9.60
					10.60
					12.40
					8.30
					8.10
					7.60
					7.10
					9.60
					11.80
					10.60
					9.80
					9.30
					8.90

1/ See footnotes 2, 3, and 4 of table 1 on page 12.

Table 3.--Estimated Cost of One Week's Food, July 1959, for Southern and Western Regions

Sex-age groups	South			West		
	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>FAMILIES 1/</u>						
Family of two, 20-34 years .....	13.10	17.90	20.60	16.70	21.40	24.40
Family of two, 55-74 years .....	11.80	16.30	18.50	15.00	19.20	21.70
Family of four, preschool children ...	18.00	24.00	28.00	22.50	28.30	32.70
Family of four, school children .....	20.80	28.00	32.30	26.10	33.10	38.00
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>						
Children:						
Under 1 year .....	2.80	3.40	3.70	3.20	3.80	4.20
1-3 years .....	3.30	4.10	4.80	3.90	4.70	5.50
4-6 years .....	3.80	5.00	6.00	4.70	5.80	6.90
7-9 years .....	4.60	6.00	6.90	5.60	6.90	8.00
10-12 years .....	5.30	7.10	8.20	6.60	8.40	9.70
Girls, 13-15 years .....	5.60	7.60	8.70	6.90	8.90	10.30
Boys, 13-15 years .....	5.70	7.60	8.80	7.10	8.90	10.30
16-19 years .....	6.00	8.30	9.50	7.50	9.80	11.30
16-19 years .....	7.10	9.60	11.00	9.00	11.50	13.20
Women:						
20-34 years .....	4.70	6.60	7.60	6.00	7.80	8.90
35-54 years .....	4.60	6.40	7.40	5.80	7.60	8.70
55-74 years .....	4.30	6.10	7.00	5.50	7.10	8.20
75 years and over .....	4.20	5.70	6.60	5.30	6.70	7.60
Pregnant .....	6.00	7.80	8.80	7.40	9.10	10.20
Nursing .....	7.50	9.60	10.80	9.30	11.20	12.60
Men:						
20-34 years .....	6.20	8.30	9.60	7.90	10.00	11.40
35-54 years .....	5.80	7.80	8.80	7.40	9.40	10.50
55-74 years .....	5.50	7.50	8.40	7.00	8.90	9.90
75 years and over .....	5.30	7.20	8.10	6.70	8.50	9.50

1/ See footnotes 2, 3, and 4 of table 1 on page 12.

# AN ADAPTATION OF THE LOW-COST FOOD PLAN FOR THE SOUTH

Food habits of families in the South, especially in the lower income groups, differ from those of families living in other regions. Table 1 shows how quantities of food used by households in the South differed from those in the other regions in the spring of 1955. The southern families consumed more grain products and fats. This reflects their habits of using more rice and grits and doing more home baking. They consumed less meat, milk, potatoes and some other vegetables, and fruit.

An adaptation of the low-cost food plan described in the October 1957 and March 1959 issues of Family Economics Review has been made for the South which recognizes these differences.

This plan uses the same 11 groupings of food as the standard plan. But it uses different quantities of food in each of these groups, taking into account the differences mentioned above while providing nutritionally adequate diets. The National Research Council's Recommended Dietary Allowances have been used as the minimum goals for 8 nutrients and the maximum goal for

Table 1.--Regional Differences in Food Consumption: Average amounts of foods used per person in a week by households in the Northeast, North Central, West, and South, spring 1955; selected low-income groups

Food group	Average of North-east, North Central, and West	South	
	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$1,000-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999
Milk, cream, ice cream, cheese <u>1</u> /.....quarts..	4.6	3.0	3.2
Meat, poultry, fish <u>2</u> /.....pounds..	4.2	3.5	4.0
Eggs.....number..	7.9	6.7	6.8
Dry beans, peas, nuts.....pounds..	.2	.4	.4
Grain products <u>3</u> /.....do....	2.5	3.8	3.5
Citrus fruit, tomatoes.....do....	2.4	1.4	1.9
Dark-green and deep-yellow vegetables.....do....	.6	.5	.6
Potatoes.....do....	2.0	1.4	1.4
Other vegetables and fruits.....do....	5.1	3.7	4.3
Fats, oils.....do....	.8	.9	.9
Sugars, sweets.....do....	1.2	1.4	1.4

1/ Milk equivalent: The approximate quantity of fluid milk to which the dairy products (except butter) are equivalent in calcium.

2/ Includes bacon and salt pork.

3/ Includes the dry weight of the flour in purchased baked goods.



Table 2.--Food Plan at Low Cost Adapted for the Southern Region: Suggested weekly quantities of food (as purchased assuming average choices within groups) for 19 sex-age groups

Sex-age group <sup>1/</sup>	Milk, cheese, ice cream <sup>2/</sup>	Meat, poultry, fish <sup>3/</sup>	Eggs	Dry beans, peas, nuts	Grain products <sup>4/</sup>	Citrus fruit, tomatoes	Dark-green and deep-yellow vegetables	Potatoes	Other vegetables and fruits	Fats, oils	Sugar, sweets
	Qt.	Lb. Oz.	No.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.	Lb. Oz.
Children:											
Under 1 year.....	5.5	0 -12	5	0 - 0	0 -12	1 - 8	0 - 2	0 - 8	1 - 0	0 - 1	0 - 1
1-3 years.....	5.5	1 - 0	5	0 - 1	1 - 8	1 - 8	0 - 4	0 - 8	2 - 0	0 - 4	0 - 4
4-6 years.....	5.5	1 - 4	5	0 - 2	2 - 4	1 - 8	0 - 4	0 - 8	3 - 0	0 - 8	0 - 6
7-9 years.....	5	1 -12	6	0 - 6	2 -12	1 -12	0 - 8	1 - 8	4 - 0	0 -10	0 -10
10-12 years.....	6	2 - 0	6	0 - 8	3 - 8	2 - 0	0 - 8	2 - 0	4 -12	0 -10	0 -12
Girls, 13-15 years.	7	2 - 0	6	0 - 6	3 - 8	2 - 4	0 -12	2 - 0	4 -12	0 -12	0 -12
16-19 years.....	7	2 - 0	6	0 - 6	3 - 4	2 - 4	0 -12	1 -12	4 - 8	0 - 8	0 -10
Boys, 13-15 years..	6.5	2 - 0	6	0 - 8	4 -12	2 - 4	0 -12	2 -12	5 - 0	0 -14	0 -12
16-19 years.....	6.5	2 -12	6	0 -10	5 -12	2 - 4	0 -12	4 - 4	5 - 4	1 - 0	0 -14
Women:											
20-34 years.....	3.5	2 - 0	5	0 - 6	3 - 0	1 -12	0 -12	1 - 0	4 -12	0 - 8	0 -10
35-54 years.....	3.5	2 - 0	5	0 - 6	3 - 0	1 -12	0 -12	1 - 0	4 - 4	0 - 6	0 -10
55-74 years.....	3.5	2 - 0	5	0 - 4	2 - 8	1 -12	0 -12	1 - 0	3 - 0	0 - 6	0 - 6
75 years and over	3.5	2 - 0	5	0 - 4	2 - 4	1 -12	0 -12	1 - 0	2 -12	0 - 6	0 - 6
Pregnant.....	7	2 - 4	7	0 - 4	3 - 0	3 - 4	1 - 8	1 - 0	4 -12	0 - 8	0 - 8
Lactating.....	10	2 -12	7	0 - 6	3 - 8	4 - 8	1 - 8	2 - 4	5 - 4	0 -12	0 - 8
Men:											
20-34 years.....	3	3 - 4	6	0 - 8	4 -12	2 - 0	0 -12	2 -12	5 - 4	0 -14	1 - 0
35-54 years.....	3	3 - 0	6	0 - 8	4 - 4	2 - 0	0 -12	2 - 8	4 -12	0 -12	0 -12
55-74 years.....	3	2 -12	6	0 - 6	4 - 0	2 - 0	0 -12	2 - 0	4 - 4	0 -12	0 -10
75 years and over	3	2 -12	6	0 - 6	3 - 8	2 - 0	0 -12	2 - 0	4 - 0	0 -10	0 -10

<sup>1/</sup> Quantities of food suggested here are based on growth and activity levels believed to fit average conditions in this country. <sup>2/</sup> Fluid whole milk or the calcium equivalent of milk products. Count as 1 cup milk, <sup>3/4</sup> pound cottage cheese (creamed), 1 pound cream cheese, 1-1/3 ounces cheddar cheese, about 3 large dips or 1 scant pint ice cream. <sup>3/</sup> Meat, poultry, and fish including bacon and salt pork. Protein content of group assumed to be 60 grams per pound. Bacon and salt pork not to exceed 1/3 pound for each 5 pounds of meat group. <sup>4/</sup> Weight in terms of flour and cereal; count 1-1/2 pounds of bread and baked goods as 1 pound flour.



calories. <sup>1/</sup> It is assumed that families following the plans will select foods within each food group much like the averages reported for the South in the household food survey. Table 2 (opposite page) gives suggested quantities for 19 different classes of individuals--men, women, and children of different ages. In planning quantities of food within the 11 food groups food consumption patterns of southern nonfarm households with incomes of \$1,000 to \$2,000 were used as a guide.

The same procedure was followed in estimating the cost of food for the low-cost southern plan as for the standard plans. Costs were first calculated by using average prices paid per pound by southern nonfarm families reporting incomes of \$1,000-\$2,000 in the 1955 survey. These estimated costs were adjusted to current price levels by use of the BLS retail food prices for Atlanta. Table 3 presents the costs in July 1959 of the southern adaptation of the low-cost plan. They are 90-95 percent of the cost of food in the standard plan using southern prices.

Table 3.--Estimated Cost of One Week's Food, for Special Adaptation of Low-Cost Plan for the South, July 1959

Sex-age groups	Special low-cost plan <sup>1/</sup>	Sex-age groups	Special low-cost plan <sup>1/</sup>
	<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
<u>FAMILIES</u> <sup>2/</sup>		<u>INDIVIDUALS</u> --Con.	
Family of two, 20-34 years.....	12.40	Boys, 13-15 years.....	5.70
Family of two, 55-74 years.....	10.90	16-19 years.....	6.70
Family of four, preschool children.	17.10	Women:	
Family of four, school children....	19.80	20-34 years.....	4.50
		35-54 years.....	4.40
		55-74 years.....	4.00
		75 years and over...	4.00
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>		Pregnant.....	5.80
Children:		Nursing.....	7.30
Under 1 year.....	2.60	Men:	
1-3 years.....	3.10	20-34 years.....	5.80
4-6 years.....	3.70	35-54 years.....	5.40
7-9 years.....	4.40	55-74 years.....	5.10
10-12 years.....	5.10	75 years and over...	4.90
Girls, 13-15 years.....	5.40		
16-19 years.....	5.50		

<sup>1/</sup> Based on quantities suggested in table 2 on page 17.

<sup>2/</sup> See footnotes 2, 3, and 4 of table 1 on page 12.

--Eloise Cofer.

<sup>1/</sup> Calories for adults were as modified in "Applying 1953 Dietary Allowances to U. S. Population Groups," by C. LeBovit and H. K. Stiebelling in Journal of the American Dietetic Association. 33: 219-224. 1957.

## TEXTILE FIBER IDENTIFICATION

The Federal Trade Commission has issued to the textile industry the final rules for complying with the new Textile Fiber Products Identification Act. 1/ Industry has until March 3, 1960 to put these new rules into effect.

The Federal Trade Commission is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the textile law as Congress passed it. The Commission held public hearings in March 1959 to give industry a chance to express opinions about its originally proposed rules. After the hearings the agency reviewed all comments on the proposed rules and regulations before drawing up those finally adopted.

The Textile Fiber Identification Act will enable consumers to buy most apparel and fabrics labeled as to fiber content in much the same way they have become accustomed to in shopping for wool products. Under the rules, the generic term designating type or types of fibers present must be used along with the trade name in labeling and advertising textile products. "Generic term" is a term or name indicating the source of origin or composition of the fiber. The generic names of all fibers making up more than 5 percent of the total fiber weight must be given, as for example, "cotton," "rayon," "silk," "linen," "nylon," etc. The list below gives the generic terms as established by the Federal Trade Commission for manufactured fibers, with some trade names of fibers that fall under each class. 2/

<u>Generic term</u>	<u>Examples of trade name</u>
(a) Acrylic	Acrilan, Creslan, Orlon, Zefran
(b) Modacrylic	Dynel, Verel
(c) Polyester	Dacron, Kodel, Teron, Vycron
(d) Rayon	Rayon, Fortisan, Super L, Corval, Topel
(e) Acetate	Acetate, Arnel
(f) Saran	Dawbarn, Velon
(g) Azlon	None currently manufactured in the United States
(h) Nytril	Darvin
(i) Nylon	Nylon
(j) Rubber	Polyisoprene
(k) Spandex	Fiber K
(l) Vinal	Vynylon
(m) Olefin	Reevon
(n) Vinyon	Vinyon
(o) Metallic	Lurex, Reymet, Fairtex, Malora, Chromeflex, Lame, Metlon
(p) Glass	Fiberglas, PPG, Uniformat

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1/ See October 1958 issue of Family Economics Review for a summary of the provisions of the law.

2/ Adapted from the Daily News Record, June 3, 1959.

## CHANGES IN INCOME AND SPENDING OF CITY WORKER FAMILIES

Families of city workers attained successively higher levels of living during the twentieth century. Contributing to this progress have been rising incomes, increasing variety and volume in consumer goods available for purchase, and desire of workers to have more of the comforts and leisure that mark living above the subsistence level.

Information about city workers as consumers is provided mainly by surveys made by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Four of the major consumption studies made by this agency since the beginning of the century fell at convenient intervals for tracing urban family progress: 1901, 1917-19, 1934-36, and 1950. The purposes and methods of these surveys were not identical, but the data they provide are comparable enough to give a good description of changes in family living during the period. Such a description, given in great detail, is presented in a recent publication, How American Buying Habits Change. 1/

### City worker incomes rise

The average "normal family" 2/ living in the principal industrial centers in 33 States in 1901 had money income of \$650. In 1950 the average money income (after personal taxes) of city wage-earner and clerical-worker families of 2 or more persons was over \$4,000. Wives did their part toward raising the level of family incomes. Three out of 10 wives were employed outside the home in the 1950's, as compared to 1 in 20 in 1901.

But money incomes in years a half century apart should not be compared directly, because the value of the dollar has fallen so much in the meantime. In terms of equivalent (1950) buying power the average worker's income, even so, was twice as large in 1950 as in 1901. (See table 1.) By 1956 it was

Table 1.--Average net income of city workers' families as a percent of 1950 buying power

Item	1901	1950	1956
Per family.....	48	100	123
Per family member.....	39	100	119

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1/ How American Buying Habits Change. U. S. Department of Labor, 253 pp. 1959. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price \$1.00.

The above article is adapted from Chapter II of this publication, titled "The Broadening Base of Consumption."

2/ A "normal family" had a husband and wife, not over 5 children with none over age 14, no boarders or dependents; did not own its dwelling place; and reported expenditures for rent, fuel, lighting, clothing, and food.



almost a quarter larger than in 1950. The gain per family member between 1901 and the 1950's was even greater than the gain per family, because the family of the 1950's was smaller.

Low-income workers made relatively greater progress than others. Differences between the incomes of various parts of the population narrowed. There is considerably less difference now than 50 years ago, for example, between the rate of pay of the unskilled and the skilled worker; between the low-wage and the high-wage regions of the country; between manual and white-collar workers; and between racial groups. The result is a greater concentration of workers in the middle-income groups. The "average worker" at mid-century is, therefore, more typical of workers in general than he was in 1901.

The welfare of workers has been improved also by the increase during the century of nonmoney income in such forms as the "fringe benefits" of workers in industry, community facilities, and recreational and educational advantages provided by Government.

### Savings, credit, and economic security

Families of working men put larger portions of their earnings into cash savings in 1901 than they do now. About half of the families reported a surplus then, and only 1 in 6 reported a deficit--that is, spending more than they earned. The average surplus for the families that had one amounted to about 10 weeks' pay.

In 1950, the amount the average city worker's family spent for current consumption was just about the same as its income after taxes. People now incur debt much more readily than they used to. In 1957, 2 out of 3 families in the typical wage-earner income group (\$3,000-\$5,000) had personal debt. About half had debts larger than their liquid assets (savings accounts, bonds, etc.).

This greater readiness of today's workers to incur debts reflects their greater feeling of security. Early in the century the city worker family's only resources in an emergency were either savings or the earnings of other family members. In the 1950's he has many resources, in the form of unemployment compensation, workmen's compensation, provision for paid sick leave, private insurance and pension plans, and other forms of social security benefits. He is also much more likely to have an equity in his home.

### Patterns of consumption change

As buying power (real income) rises, the proportion of income consumers must spend for necessities declines, and the proportion they can spend for other goods and services increases. The ability of the consumer to buy these other goods and services ("secondary necessities," "conveniences," and "luxuries"--the "sundries" of earlier surveys) is usually considered a measure of his well-being.

The BLS studies show how important the "margin of spending beyond the subsistence level" has been to city worker families in achieving a level of

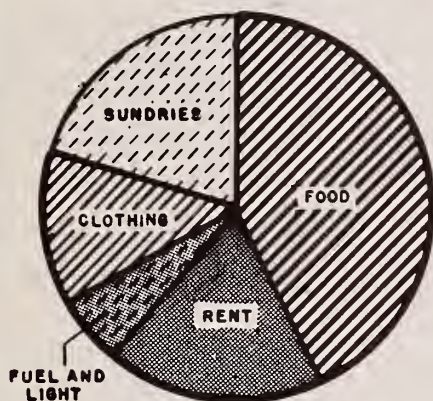


living that includes the automobile, TV sets, new homes, and vacation trips that earlier workers had to do without. The workers represented are wage earners and lower salaried clerical and sales employees. With their families they now make up about three-fourths of the population in urban areas. They comprise two-thirds of all employed family heads in the United States.

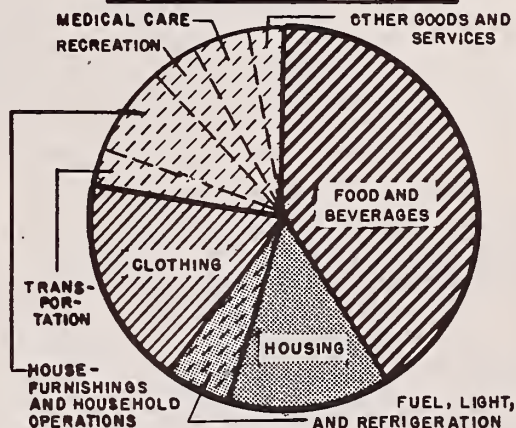
The "pies" in the chart below show how the pattern of expenditure of city workers for family living has changed in 50 years. Each pie represents a dollar of expenditure for current consumption of an average worker's family. In 1901, food alone took 43 percent of the workers' dollar, the basic

### HOW URBAN WAGE-EARNER AND CLERICAL-WORKER FAMILIES OF 2 OR MORE DIVIDED THEIR EXPENDITURES FOR CURRENT CONSUMPTION AT SELECTED TIMES ....

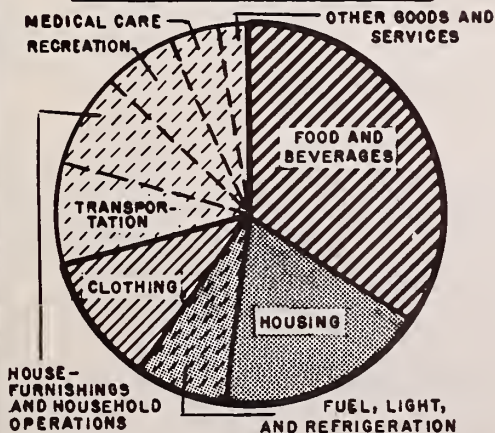
United States, 1901



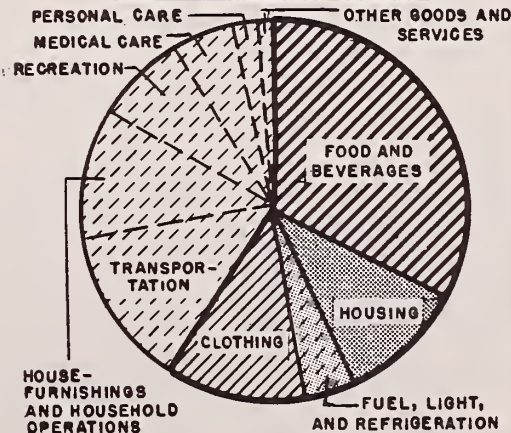
United States, 1917-19



United States, 1934-36



United States, 1950



necessities all together--food, shelter, and clothing--80 percent. This left only 20 percent for the "sundries" that represent greater choice in spending. In 1950, the average city worker spent 30 percent of his total consumption dollar for food, 58 percent for all "necessities," and had 42 percent left for the "sundries."

### Changes in actual buying power

Figures on average income and outlays for current consumption of worker families of 2 or more persons in large cities, converted into dollars of 1950 buying power, are shown in table 2. Although rising prices cut the buying power of each dollar by 66 percent between 1901 and 1950, incomes rose enough to buy 2-1/4 times as many goods and services. Thus, although the proportion of spending going for necessities decreased, the smaller share would buy larger quantities or better qualities of goods. Also, the fact that the share

Table 2.--Average consumption expenditures of families of city-wage and clerical workers of 2 or more persons, selected periods

(In dollars of 1950 purchasing power)

Item	1901 <sup>1/</sup>	1917-19	1934-36	1950
	1950 dollars			
Money income after personal taxes.....	1,914	2,408	2,659	4,005
Total expenditure for current consumption.....	1,817	2,163	2,564	4,076
Food and drink.....	952	854	1,030	1,335
Clothing.....	--	343	309	473
Shelter (current expense).....	--	252	356	448
Fuel, light, refrigeration, water.....	--	126	158	153
Furnishings and equipment.....	--	109	119	281
Household operation.....	--	} 479	80	167
Automobile purchase and operation.....	--		150	457
Other transportation.....	--		57	81
Medical care.....	--		88	213
Personal care.....	--		55	93
Recreation and reading.....	--		94	227
Education.....	--		11	19
Tobacco.....	--	} 11	46	80
Miscellaneous.....	--		11	49

<sup>1/</sup> Official indexes for converting other items than those shown not available.



going for "sundries" has doubled seems even more important when we consider that the number of dollars given to such purchases now buys nearly 3 times the quantity it did in 1917-19.

### "Necessities" and "sundries"

As city worker families have obtained more buying power--especially in periods of rapidly rising real income--they have usually made a complex series of adjustments in spending, increasing their food consumption, improving their housing, and buying more medical care and recreation. Although they have spent successively smaller shares of their dollar for the "necessities," this share has provided steadily increasing values and satisfactions. For example, home ownership has increased, more families enjoy the use of household comforts and conveniences, diets are more interesting and nutritionally adequate, and class distinctions in clothing have dimmed. In fact, the three basic necessities (food, shelter, and clothing) now include many goods and services that would have been considered luxuries a half century ago.

The group of items called "sundries" includes such things as transportation, medical and personal care, recreation, reading, education, and tobacco. Although spending for all of these increased, the most amazing change was in spending for transportation. Wage earners and clerical workers were allocating only 3 percent of their spending for current consumption to transportation in 1917-19 and almost 9 percent in 1934-36. By 1950 it was one of the largest items in the family budget, taking 14 percent of the total. The automobile is the main reason for the difference, of course.

The larger proportion of expenditures workers can devote to the conveniences and luxuries doesn't really give an adequate idea of how much they have advanced. Five percent of a worker's buying power devoted to recreation in earlier years, for example, would have represented only a fraction of 5 percent of his buying power in the 1950's. But even more important to workers is the greater freedom they have to widen their range of choice to make selections of goods and services beyond the basic necessities of living.

### MONEY INCOME OF AGED PERSONS 1/

Older citizens today are probably living better than those of 10 years ago, if the increased number receiving regular incomes and the higher level of their incomes are indications. Much of the added income is from social insurance and related Government programs, including Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI); railroad retirement; Government employees' retirement; and veterans' compensation and pensions. Two out of 3 persons 65 years of age and over received some income from these sources in June 1958. Ten years earlier only 1 out of every 5 persons received these benefits.

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1/ Adapted from: Lenore A. Epstein. "Money Income of Aged Persons: A 10-Year Review, 1948 to 1958." Social Security Bulletin, pp. 3-11, June 1959.

## Source of money income

Social insurance and related programs.--Benefits under the OASDI program were by far the most common source of income for persons 65 years and over in June 1958. Over 58 percent (8.8 million) of all persons in this age group received such benefits, compared with 13 percent (1.5 million) in June 1948. (See table 1.) These included retired workers and aged wives, widows, and parents of deceased workers.

The number receiving benefits under railroad retirement, veterans' compensation and pensions, and Government employees' retirement increased too, but these programs are small compared to OASDI. The three together provided incomes for 8 percent of persons 65 and over in 1948, and for 16 percent of them in 1958.

Public assistance.--Old age assistance grants by States continue to supplement the income of many older persons. Such assistance is often necessary for those whose OASDI benefits are small because they had low average earnings when they were employed. It is also necessary in cases where medical

Table 1.--Estimated number and percent of persons aged 65 and over receiving money income from specified sources, June 1948 and June 1958

Source of money income	Total number		Percent	
	1948	1958	1948	1958
	Millions	Millions		
Population aged 65 and over, total.....	11.5	15.2	100.0	100.0
Employment.....	3.8	4.0	33.2	26.0
Earners.....	2.9	3.1	25.4	20.2
Nonworking wives of earners.....	.9	.9	7.8	5.8
Social insurance and related programs <sup>1/</sup>	2.3	10.4	20.2	68.2
Old age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	1.5	8.8	12.7	58.2
Railroad retirement programs.....	.3	.6	2.6	3.8
Government employees' retirement programs.....	.3	.8	2.6	4.9
Veterans' compensation and pensions..	.4	1.2	3.0	7.6
Public assistance.....	2.4	2.5	20.8	16.6
No money income or income solely from other sources.....	3.4	1.5	29.4	9.9

Note: Because persons frequently have income from more than one of the sources, the sum of persons exceeds the total number in the population. Wives were counted as having income if their husbands had income from employment or social insurance.

<sup>1/</sup> Persons with income from more than one of the programs listed are counted only once. Unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, and temporary disability insurance programs also provided income for an unknown number.



care or other special needs make an unusually heavy drain on income. In June 1958, about 7 percent receiving OASDI also received old-age assistance or aid to the blind, compared to about 10 percent in 1948.

In June 1958, four-fifths of the men and three-fifths of the women with no income from employment or social insurance received public assistance. Ten years earlier, less than half of the men and slightly more than a third of the women in this situation were on the assistance rolls.

**Paid employment.**--Relatively fewer aged persons had income from paid employment--either as workers or wives of workers--in 1958 than in 1948. In 1958, one-fourth of those 65 years old or over had employment income; in 1948, one-third did. The rate of employment of older men dropped from 44 percent in the earlier to 33 percent in the later year; that of women was about 9 percent in both years.

**Other.**--The proportion of elderly persons receiving no income, or income only from sources other than social insurance, public assistance, and employment, dropped from 29 percent in 1948 to 10 percent in 1958.

#### Size of income

Incomes of older persons as a group have improved considerably since 1948. The proportion with incomes over \$1,000 in dollars of 1957 buying power increased from 32 percent in 1948 to 40 percent in 1957. (See table 2.)

Table 2.--Percent distribution of persons 65 and over  
by total money income, 1948 and 1957

(Excludes those in institutions)

Money income	1948		1957
	In 1948 dollars	In 1957 dollars <sup>1/</sup>	
Number of persons (millions)...	11.6	11.6	14.6
Total percent.....	100	100	100
No income.....	32	32	18
\$1-\$999.....	42	36	43
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	13	16	20
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	7	7	8
\$3,000-\$4,999.....	4	6	7
\$5,000 or more.....	2	3	5

Note: Details may not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Wives were counted as having income only if they received income independent of their husbands.

<sup>1/</sup> Estimated roughly by converting the limits of each income class in 1948 to 1957 dollars, using the BLS Consumer Price Index, then recalculating the number of persons at each revised income level.

The income position of many aged people is better than the income distribution in table 2 indicates. The figures give the income of all individuals 65 years of age or older. Some of these individuals are husbands and wives living together. The wife may have no income but shares her husband's. Or each may have an income--perhaps a monthly social security check. A majority of those who reported no income in 1957-58 were women, many of whom had husbands with income.

Tables 1 and 2 seemingly disagree in the proportion of aged persons with no income. The disagreement is due largely to (1) underreporting of income in the study reported in table 2, and (2) the fact that incomes of wives were treated differently in the two tabulations. In table 1, wives were counted as having income if their husbands had income from employment or social insurance. In table 2, wives were counted as having income only if they themselves received money, independent of their husbands' income.

## 1960 CENSUS

It is anticipated that nearly 180 million persons will be counted when the Eighteenth Decennial Population Census is taken in April 1960. Each of us can help to make an accurate and complete job of this gigantic undertaking. Its success will be up to the women particularly, for they, for the most part, will be the ones to ask and answer the questions.

The Bureau of the Census is one of the principal fact finders for the Nation, and has been since the first count in 1790. The Bureau sends enumerators out every 10 years to get figures about Population and Housing, and every 5 years to get data on Agriculture. Four other important censuses are carried out by mail at 5-year intervals: Manufactures, Business, Mineral Industries, and Governments (principally concerned with statistics of State and local Government). The Census of Agriculture will be taken in the fall of 1959 when information on farm operation is more readily obtainable than in April.

We will have questions put to us that concern only population and housing when the enumerator comes around next April.

### Uses for Census figures

Census figures are used extensively by people in various fields, and the big books are a must in most public and university libraries. The primary purpose of the Census of Population is to determine the number of Representatives each State may elect to Congress. The Constitution of the United States specified this. Distribution of Federal and State tax revenues may also be based on population figures. For example, funds for roads and schools are sometimes figured on such totals. The number of State, county, and city officials and the salaries they receive are determined by population totals in some States.

Business people planning new outlets such as supermarkets, laundries, and dry cleaning establishments use figures on population numbers and characteristics (age, income, and occupation) before deciding on a new business or area. Manufacturers may use the figures in deciding how many autos to make, or how much clothing to produce in a year.

It is evident that there are good reasons for collecting information on many details such as place of residence, sex, race, age, number of rooms in the house, and ownership of household equipment so that a record of our national inventory of persons and resources can be made.

### Procedure for April 1960 Census

This Census will introduce a new procedure. An advance Census form will be sent during March 1960 to each household in the United States. This form will have space to answer six questions on population and about the same number on housing. A letter will come with the form, explaining that you are to fill in carefully the answers to all the questions, then hold the form until the enumerator calls. When he comes, he will check over your answers with you. Accuracy in every detail is extremely important because after a schedule reaches headquarters it cannot be changed, even if incorrect. Accuracy could prove helpful to individuals personally if they happen to have no birth certificate available. In such a case, the transcript of his census record might be accepted for a passport or the settling of a claim to an estate. This record would be given out by the Census Bureau only upon the individual's written request, however.

The census enumerator will ask additional questions in every fourth household. By collecting certain detailed information from the "one-in-four" household, the census taking process is shortened and money is saved, yet sufficient information is obtained for an accurate estimate for many purposes. The "one-in-four" household is chosen in simple numerical order of all occupied dwellings. The fourth household automatically gets into this sample, and the enumerator will leave a second form to be filled in and mailed to the Census Bureau. He will also leave a postage-free envelope for mailing it.

All information given is strictly confidential and absolutely no one except the Census Bureau employees who collect and process it is entitled to see individual records for any purpose. In fact, the Census Bureau is not interested in a person as an individual, but as an important part of a total. For example, a housewife becomes one of the thousands of women classified as "not in the labor force." The enumerator is more interested in the proper recording of the information on the schedule than in any detail of a person's age or income.



# INCOMES SHIFT UPWARD 1/

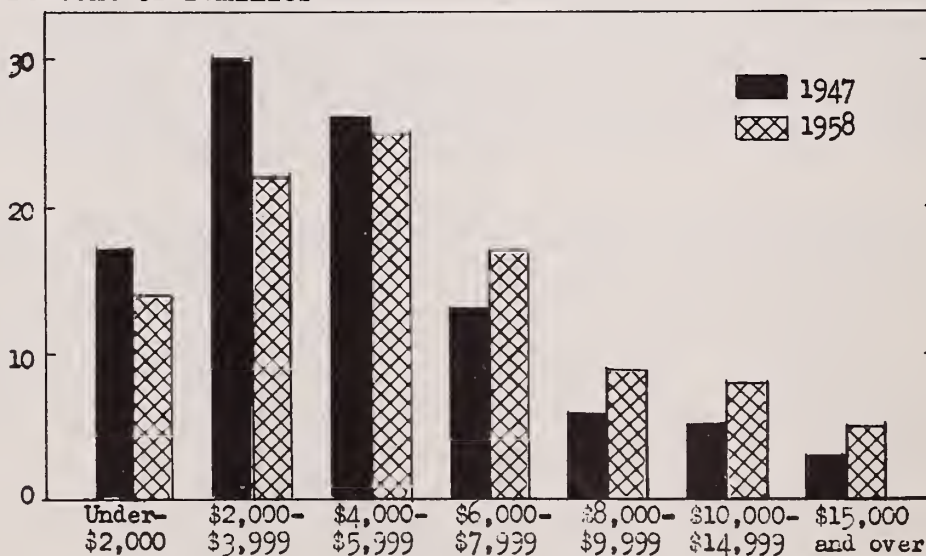
Personal incomes of U. S. families and single individuals underwent a general upgrading during the past decade. ("Personal income" includes money income from all sources, plus nonmoney income like wages in kind, the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms, the net imputed rental value of owner-occupied homes, and imputed interest.) The median income in 1958 was \$5,050--that is, half of the families and single individuals had incomes lower than this, half higher.

The chart below shows how families and single individuals have shifted upward along the income scale. Incomes for 1947 are expressed in terms of 1958 dollars, to eliminate the effect of the rise in prices and make them directly comparable with the 1958 incomes. The proportion of families in each income class under \$6,000 fell, reducing the total with less than \$6,000 (in 1958 dollars) from 72 percent in 1947 to 61 percent in 1958. The proportion in each of the higher classes rose, so that the total with \$6,000 or more increased from 28 percent in the earlier to 39 percent in the later year.

Changes in family composition occurred too. Family size increased slightly, age of family head rose moderately, and the proportion of wives employed outside the home increased substantially. The size of families in the lowest income group changed little, but the number of children in families with higher incomes increased. As a result, a smaller proportion of the Nation's children were in lower income families than 10 years earlier.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL INCOME (BEFORE TAXES) IN 1947 AND 1958 (1958 DOLLARS)

Percent of families



Source: U. S. Department of Commerce

1/ Selma F. Goldsmith. "Income Distribution by Size--1955-58." Survey of Current Business, April 1959, pp. 9-16.

# CONSUMER PRICES

Table 1.--Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used in Family Living  
(1947-49 = 100)

August 1958; December 1958-August 1959

Item	Aug. 1958	Dec.	Jan. 1959	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.
All commodities.....	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
Food and tobacco.....	--	116	--	--	115	--	--	117	--	--
Clothing.....	--	114	--	--	114	--	--	114	--	--
Household operation.....	--	117	--	--	117	--	--	117	--	--
Household furnishings.....	--	104	--	--	104	--	--	104	--	--
Building materials, house.	--	119	--	--	120	--	--	121	--	--
Auto and auto supplies....	--	139	--	--	141	--	--	141	--	--

Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 2.--Consumer Price Index for City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families  
(1947-49 = 100)

July 1958; November 1958-July 1959

Item	July 1958	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1959	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July
All items.....	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	125
Food.....	122	119	119	119	118	118	118	118	119	119
Apparel.....	107	108	108	107	107	107	107	107	107	108
Housing.....	128	128	128	128	128	129	129	129	129	129
Rent.....	138	138	139	139	139	139	139	139	140	140
Gas and electricity.....	117	118	118	118	118	118	118	119	119	120
Solid fuels and fuel oil	132	136	137	139	140	140	139	135	134	134
Housefurnishings.....	104	104	104	103	104	104	104	104	104	104
Household operation.....	131	133	133	133	133	134	134	134	134	134
Transportation.....	140	144	144	144	144	145	145	145	146	146
Medical care.....	145	147	148	148	149	149	150	150	151	151
Personal care.....	129	129	129	129	130	130	130	131	131	131
Reading and recreation....	117	117	117	117	117	117	118	118	118	119
Other goods and services..	127	127	127	127	127	127	128	128	129	131

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

